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Waste chance delays stream cleanup

By Joseph Conn
of the Post-Tribune

CROWN POINT — The possibility of contamination from a toxic landfill in Griffith has delayed plans to clear stretches of Turkey Creek this summer.

Giant Lake County Surveyor Jim Henderson identified the problem site as a landfill believed to be owned by a chemical company near Colfax Street in Griffith almost a mile north of Turkey Creek.

"We have two concerns," said Lisa Kobe, director of external af-

fairs for the new Indiana Department of Environmental Management. "The impact on wetlands which is always a matter of concern, and the potential of contaminated sediments has been raised."

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"We have two concerns," said Lisa Kobe, director of external af-

barts, Deep River, Burns Ditch and eventually enter Lake Michigan. Several reaches of the stream, including the area near Lake George, include wetlands protected by the state Department of Natural Resources.

"It's a Superfund site," Kobe said of the Griffith landfill. "It probably has numerous types of industrial wastes."

The Superfund is a program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to pay for the cleanup of the nation's most notorious

contaminated waste disposal sites.

Kobe said,

The site has been on the federal cleanup list for about two years, she said.

The county has budgeted \$20,000 for work on Turkey Creek this year. Part of the county master plan includes a series of check

dams and traps that would lessen sedimentation in Lake George.

Henderson said that 60 to 70

percent of the channel has already been snagged and most of that has been dredged over the past few years and no problems have arisen over previous permit applications.

No evidence has been submitted that any contamination of Turkey Creek has or could occur from the dump, but the delay was suggested to provide time for further investigation, he said.

"They suggested that we may have an obligation to take samples," Henderson said.